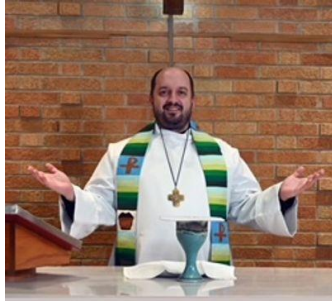




St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

May 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo

May – Bearing Witness

Reflecting on the texts we will be hearing this coming May, the word that comes to mind is that word so feared by mainline Protestants – bearing witness. “You mean we have to share about our faith?” Yes, your faith needs to make a difference in your life and you should

be ready to help others who may need to hear some good news. It’s not about pushing your beliefs on others, but it is about really loving your faith and loving your neighbors at the same time.

The first week of May may not help with that, though. It’s about Stephen, who bore witness to the truth even unto death. Don’t worry. I’ll think of something nice and pleasant to say here. But we do need to be reminded that the core and heartbeat of our faith is the martyrs in every generation who stand against the darkness.

The next three weeks have a Trinitarian feel, which will lead us up to Trinity Sunday on June 4th.

On May 14th, we see how Paul bears witness to God the Father who has left a mark in all of creation for people to see.

On May 21st, we will celebrate the ascension of Christ and learn what it means to bear witness to Jesus’ Lordship.

On May 28th, Pentecost Sunday, we will bear witness to the power of the Holy Spirit!

And then we are sent out to spread the word all summer long!

Pastor Bo



May Important Dates

May 14 – Music Sunday
May 21 – Sunday School
Neighborhood Flower Delivery
May 25 – Faith Explorers

Food Pantry Current Need

Our current needs list in priority order is:

- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Toilet Paper
- Applesauce
- Canned Fruit
- Beef Stew
- Chef Boyardee canned pasta
- Rice
- Knorr Side Dishes



Food Pantry Report

The Hatboro Community Cupboard wishes to thank the students at Keith Valley Middle School and Simmons Elementary School in the Hatboro Horsham School District. The Student Council of Keith Valley Middle School conducted a food collection drive and donated to the Cupboard. The 5th grade of Simmons Elementary also did a school wide collection and donated half of their collection to the Hatboro

Community Cupboard and half to the Fishes and Loaves Pantry at Lehman Methodist.

On Wednesday March 15 we experienced a first along with significant portions of the immediate community. Police action in the area of York Rd and Moreland Ave. caused the immediate area to be closed and a shelter in place order issued. All of the Hatboro Horsham School District closed for the day. Following our policy of closing when the Hatboro Horsham schools close for an emergency the Cupboard was shut down for the day.

The reduction in SNAP benefits which has made the news nationally has impacted the Cupboard in that 29 new families have signed up during the month of March. Due to the closure the number of families served in the month was slightly decreased when compared to February. 333 visits to the Cupboard were recorded for the month and 93 of these visits were by families of 5 or more members. Thus, the total number of bags of basic groceries distributed is 426.

Members of the Pantry Leadership began to meet with leadership from the co-sponsoring churches to share visions and plans. One of our goals from these meetings is to attempt to even out some of the peaks and valleys in the donation stream. We are also sharing the changes that have prompted the name change. To date only one meeting has been held as it was necessary to cancel one for the emergency in Hatboro.

On March 31, 2022 the Client Choice model was tested in preparation of resumption of indoor service to clients in April of 2022. Thus, we are observing the one year anniversary of having clients come into the building and select the products that best suit their needs.

We deeply appreciate the support of our community sponsors and individual sponsors. Thank you one and all for your prayers and support.



LAST MONTH

Stations of the Crockpots: Lenten Family Night & Chili Cookoff

We had a blast at our annual chili cookoff! Our winners this year were Bob Muller with his first place chili and Jess Flynn with her first place cornbread! Our activity was a station of the cross themed photo scavenger hunt, which was a lot of fun!



Palm Sunday

What a busy start to Holy Week for our youth! Our confirmands and Sunday School students paraded through the sanctuary with their palms to kick off the service, and then they went to Sunday School. One of our students taught Sunday School to her peers, and our First Communion Class baked bread for Maundy Thursday with the help of our confirmands. After the service, they all hunted for Easter eggs on the front lawn!



Maundy Thursday: First Holy Communion

Six of our Sunday School students received their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.



Easter Morning

Almost 300 people came out for services Easter morning. Our sanctuary was beautifully decorated with our dedicated flowers, and Pastor Bo brought back the chairs for Part 2 of "The Gospel in Chairs!"



Youth News & Events



We offer Sunday School for ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 12th grade. These ages are split into 4 classes (Pre-K/ Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-12th grade). In order to make Sunday School a success, we need your help! Teacher signups are hanging on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office.

Lesson Schedule:

May 7:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: Planting Flowers for Neighborhood Delivery
- 7th -12th grade: **No Sunday School**

May 14:

- **Music Sunday – No Sunday School**

May 21:

- Pre-K – 12th Grade: Delivering Flowers to the Neighborhood



May Flower Delivery

This month our Sunday School kiddos are getting ready for their spring community outreach. On May 7 they are going to be planting flowers and then delivering them to the community on May 21. If you have a wagon that can be borrowed for May 21 to assist with delivering the flowers please let Abbie Metheny know. Thank you!



Confirmation Schedule

The final Confirmation class of the year will be on Sunday, May 7th at 5 pm.

Confirmation rehearsal, photos, and the banquet for confirmands and their families will be held on Sunday, May 21st at 5 pm.

The Confirmation service will be on Sunday, June 4th at 10 am.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is back! We will have 2 Vacation Bible Schools this year.



Our 3-day VBS will be called Pets Unleashed and it will focus in community service projects. This is on June 20, 21, and 22 from 9:30 until 12:00.



Our 5-day VBS is called Twists and Turns and it focuses on Peter's story with Jesus. This one takes place July 10-14 from 9:30 until 12:00.

Registration Forms and information for volunteers are currently available by request through Abbie Metheny or the Church Office, and on the website as well: sjch.org/vbs.



VBS Supplies Needed

Our first VBS, Pets Unleashed, focuses on service projects. We are looking for t-shirts that we can cut up and use to make pet toys with. We are only collecting them on May 14. There will be a basket outside of Abbie

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



National Youth Gathering

We are trying to take our Youth Group to the ELCA's 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! If you'd like to support us, you can donate on St. John's website under "Children and Youth," then click "ELCA Youth Gathering." Thank you for your support!

CHURCH NEWS



Needleworkers

We will be meeting on Monday, May 1, at 1 p.m. in the church library. Join us with your finished products and new ideas. If you have never been a member before but have an interest in learning to knit or crochet, welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barbara Quinn or Joyce Hamilton.

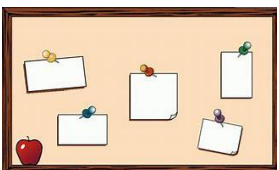
Committee Chairs Meeting

The next quarterly Committee Chairs meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7 pm.



County Choraliers Spring Concert

The County Choraliers will perform their spring concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, May 6th at 7:30 pm.



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Newsletter is **May 15th**. Please send any events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at office@sjlch.org.

MUSIC Sunday



Sunday, May 14th will be our spring Music Sunday. Come out to hear our Bell Choir, Traditional Choir, Wednesday Night Band, our kids' choir, and more!



The Community Outreach Team will once again request \$25 gift cards for distribution to A Woman's Place clients for Mother's Day. The following gift cards would be appreciated:

Wawa, Giant, Target, Kohl's, or Visa gift cards

Gift cards need to be returned to church by Sunday, May 7th. A Woman's Place is always grateful to be able to make their client's Mother's Day a bit brighter! Thank you!



Men's Breakfast

Spring has sprung, time to get out and about! We have 2 upcoming men's breakfast dates for spring; i.e., the fourth Wednesday of each month: May 24th, and June 28th. We meet at Lancer's Diner at 9:00, but you can come as early as 8:45 and everyone gets a separate check. All men, any age, are welcome! Questions? Call or email me at: rodorth@aol.com or call my cell at 215-431-8437.



Faith Explorers

Small Groups are one of the most important ways that we connect and grow in our faith and as a community. Join the new Faith Explorers group to learn more about the bible and each other. Our next meeting will be May 25th at 6pm at Country House Diner on York Road.

We Have a New Mission Statement!

St. John's is committed to building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ.

Help Wanted

Are you...

- a Confirmand who needs to meet your Worship Participation requirements?
- a student looking for Community Service Opportunities?
- someone interested in learning a new skill and helping out behind the scenes?



Bob Muller would love your help running the cameras, lights, and sound equipment that take our weekend and online services to the next level!



Check Out Our Newly Improved Website!

Please find us at www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org to stay up to date on what's happening at St. John's! Find Pastor Bo's sermons, upcoming events, and information about the church and the food pantry, and more!

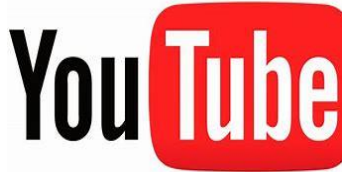
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